

THE HERALD.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

SUNDAY, October 5, 1890.

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TO DEEP CREEK.

Mr. Bacon and associates propose to build and equip a standard gauge railway to Deep Creek, on certain conditions which are set out in a petition which will be presented to the city council on Tuesday evening, and which is printed in full in this issue of THE HERALD.

For years the press of Salt Lake has earnestly endeavored to enlist capital for the construction of the proposed road, and two or three organizations have been effected with that object in view. Considerable money has been expended for surveys, examinations and investigations, and at times it has looked as if the project would be a "go." But the schemes have failed one after another. Mr. Bacon now comes to the front with a proposition to do what so many others have shown their inability to do, and he says he has the money to carry out the plan, provided certain things shall be done. These are the granting of the right of way along certain streets, and the leasing to him, or to his company, for a term of years, of a number of acres of land, and the right of deposit grounds. There can be no question as to the first of these conditions. Salt Lake has always been liberal in the matter of rights of way. A liberal policy has been pursued, the theory of the several councils—and it is the correct theory—being that the city should be a benefactor to the city and should be encouraged in all legitimate ways. Very few franchises that were proper have been denied. Railway companies other than those which existed only on paper, have little or no cause to complain of liberal treatment at the hands of the municipality.

It is assumed that the city and its generous policy of the city will be continued, and that the right of way asked by Mr. Bacon will be promptly granted under the usual necessary restrictions.

As to the gift of the Old Fort block (for it amounts to a gift), that presents a different question, or more than one question. The right of the council to either sell or give away the square, which has been reserved for a public park, has been denied by good lawyers when the matter has been discussed in the past. It seems to us also that the people living in the western part of the city should have the decision of the matter.

However, this is something which can be arranged, for if the Pioneer square cannot be had, we do not doubt that an equally good site for a depot can be secured by the people. The real issue is what we want, and the opportunity to obtain it should be taken advantage of. The proposed railway will develop one of the best of the regions in the west, making it tributary to the city. It will add many thousands of dollars annually to the wealth of Salt Lake, and which will necessarily be the business headquarters and supply point for the road and for the mining district.

THAT GAS FRANCHISE.

The city council should promptly deny the petition of the company which asks for an exclusive right to continue fifty years to lay mains and sell natural gas in this city. It will be conceded that the price of gas here is too high. It is at least six cents per cubic foot, higher than it should be. It is also admitted that the petitioners make a fair proposition as regards price, and we only wish they had a flow of natural gas with which to make good their tender. We all want competition, as only through competition will gas be sold at a reasonable price. So long as the business company will always exact exorbitant rates, just as the monopolistic concerns here always have done from the day it began to sell gas until the present time.

Conceding all this, the petition referred to should not be granted. We want no monopolies here—at least none that can be avoided. Let the petitioners have the right to lay mains in the streets, and let them sell gas, and make their franchise continue so long as the council has the right to extend it; but then stop. Next year or five or ten years hence another company may offer to sell gas cheaper than it is being sold for, provided the right to lay mains and engage in the business be granted. If so, the city council would be free to confer the right and thus help the people.

We know what the petitioning company will say; it will say that capitalists cannot be induced to invest their money unless they are protected by such a franchise as they ask for. To this we can reply that Salt Lake doesn't want anybody to invest capital who is afraid to take his chances in the field of fair and legitimate competition. Capital which has to be "protected" at the expense of the people, which cannot hold its own with "unprotected" capital, there being no favoritism on either side, is not desirable.

THE SINGLE TAX.

The subject of taxation is but poorly understood. Many things are regarded to have yet to be elucidated. No comprehensive and satisfactory treatment of this subject has yet appeared either in the English or in any other language.

It is certain, however, that much of our present system of taxation is wrong in principle and vicious in practice. Taxation of personal property fails to act with uniformity, because of the opportunities for evasion in its accomplishment, by which the dishonest owners escape and the more honest are taxed. Taxation of raw materials and of the articles used in production is one of the worst forms of taxation. Yet this is the principal source of the government revenues in this country. Now, it has been proposed by some to do away with these taxes and to impose instead a tax on land alone. This tax is to

made heavy enough to furnish all the revenue of the government. Some have proposed, notably Mr. Mill, to make this tax so heavy as to confiscate the rent of real estate. It is pointed out that rent arises by the sale of land, and as long as people continue to settle on any given piece of land its rent will rise and its value increase without any exertion on the part of the owner, and at a rate entirely disproportionate to most cases to the increase of values in other directions or to the interest on capital. This augmentation of the value of land by reason of others settling around it, has been called "the unearned increment" of land, and men have not been wanting to assert that this unearned increment belongs to the community that creates it, and not to the individual lucky enough to purchase it in the first place.

Mr. Mill proposed that the government should purchase the land from the present owners, and then take the rent thereafter. He admitted the grave difficulties in the way of such a proceeding, and organized a society for the investigation and agitation of the land tax and land tenure conditions. Henry George, at first proposed, as we understand him, that the government assume the control of land without compensation to existing owners, basing the justice of this extraordinary proceeding on the claim that the land was anciently acquired by private individuals largely through gift and inheritance. He has since modified his proposition to one of a single tax sufficient to meet the expenses of the government and levied in proportion to the rent commanded by the different areas. If the practically, there are strong reasons for supposing such a tax would be vastly better than the present unequal and oppressive system of taxation. But it has grave difficulties to overcome. It has never been tried, economists are divided as to the results that would follow, and it must overturn the system of taxation that has existed for centuries.

HENRY GEORGE is a fearless and brainy advocate of the single tax, and the movement has a large following, principally in England and Australia.

THE PEEK WAX EXECUTIVE.

Our beloved governor, by the grace of the President of the United States and to the great disgust of the majority of the people whom he is supposed to govern, has once more made a report and as usual it is in keeping with the efforts that this small-minded individual has made in the past. There is not a man in Utah that has done more to injure the people by his actions as a ruler, or to bring the people into a state of confusion and distrust, than the man who is now governing. He has as little regard for the truth as the average rabid anti-Mormon, and that is no little thing in itself. It is infinitesimal and almost beyond the power of the ordinary mortal to discover.

We cannot devote much attention to the report this morning, as we have as yet a few items that came by the wire from Washington, but if the document is as well filled with distorted and false statements about the people as that portion which has come to hand, then will ARTHUR have surpassed his former efforts in the line of misrepresentation.

The governor says that political and official Mormonism is rampant and menacing. He speaks of double meanings, hypocritical pretenses and false assertions. His attitude toward polygamy is delicate in the last degree. It is known that he has been in the habit of writing to the people of the state, and he seeks to convey the impression that there has been.

The above statement is false, and no one knows it better than the diminutive official who has sucked the government teat almost his entire life.

Prominent church officials, the governor says, have declared the church does not permit to enter polygamy and the nominal head of the church has announced that polygamous marriages do not now take place.

What prominent church officials have declared in this respect is true and that is what makes his excellency mad. The "nominal head" of the church is a good, coming from a man like THOMAS. He is one of the fellows who have maintained for years that the power of the head of the Mormon church is supreme in all things.

There is an old story that a certain class of individuals should be in the possession of good memories, and we respectfully suggest to Mr. Thomas that he refresh his own little. ARTHUR L. THOMAS has lived long enough in Utah to know some little of the government of the Mormon church; that he has some information on the subject is proven by the ability that he has shown in the past in distorting facts concerning the church. He knows that there is no "nominal head" of the church, and he knows that reference to it is simply made to throw distrust on the plain, honest statement of the head of the church.

THOMAS is a nice specimen of humanity to refer to "hypocritical pretenses and false assertions."

Concerning hypocrisy it might be well to refresh his excellency's memory. Only a few months ago he was in Washington and in answer to a question told Delegate CARNE that he was not in favor of the bill to disfranchise the Mormons, and then he told FRANK DUNSON and other that he was in favor of the measure, when his double dealing came to light, this man who accuses others of hypocrisy, whined like a whipped cur and said that Mr. CARNE had no business to repeat a confidential communication, but did not complain of DUNSON. Perhaps the governor does not think it is hypocritical to tell absolute falsehoods, and in that event he is excusable.

THOMAS is one of the worst enemies Utah has ever had, and his work against the people has ever been in the dark and of the two-faced kind. He is just the kind of a person to attack others, as in this way he hopes to divert attention from himself.

THE HERALD has always had the most supreme contempt for ARTHUR L. THOMAS on account of his utter lack of those qualities which go to make up a man, and the longer we live the more his actions prove that we have not been mistaken in our estimate of his excellency. We shall await with interest the full text of the report from which the above false statements are taken.

WITHIN THE LAW.

Our little governor says of the Mormon church: "His attitude toward polygamy is delicate in the last degree. It involves danger has been no change on the subject, but seeks to convey the impression that there has been."

The attitude of our little governor toward polygamy is hypocritical to the lowest degree of paltry infamy. When he says there has been no change on the subject, he knows that to lie. He knows that the doctrine of polygamy is not taught in any of the Mormon assemblies in Utah; he knows that the practice of polygamy has been discontinued; he knows that Wm. F. WOODRUFF, the only man in the Mormon church from whom an authoritative statement has ever been made, has publicly declared that the leaders of the Mormon church are not teaching plural marriage or permitting any person to enter into its practice. He knows that the Mormon people are advised publicly and privately to obey the law; and he knows that the president of the Mormon church publicly promised to give his advice to his people to refrain

from contracting any marriages forbidden by the law of the land. Yet our little governor has the brazen audacity to assert that there has been no change on the subject of polygamy in the Mormon church. What does the petty tyrant mean by the words "no change on the subject?"

It is base enough to assert that the Mormon leaders ever before publicly advised the people not to violate the anti-polygamy laws? Will he say that in former years the practice of polygamy was not taught from the pulpit here? What does the little hypocrite mean?

It is not enough for the little man who partially fills and wholly disgraces the gubernatorial chair of Utah that all actual polygamists have been punished with a "ferocious severity"; that the polygamists from the best down have been indicted by a fermenting persecution, often vindictive and inhuman in its indecency and want of common kindness; that the great majority of the people of Utah have violated no law of the land, whether the anti-polygamy law or any other; and that the men of the Mormon church have taken a special provided oath that they will not in the future violate the law, these plain facts make no difference to ARTHUR L. THOMAS. He says there has been no change. 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